

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7, 14, and 16-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 14 are amended, claims 8-13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 16-18 are added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

**I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,885,690 to Aggerstam et al. (hereinafter "Aggerstam"); and claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Aggerstam. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Aggerstam discloses a first embodiment in which a dielectric stack made of SiO<sub>2</sub> or Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> is formed on a p-type contact (Fig. 2), and a second embodiment in which an etch stop/anti-reflective layer is formed on a p-type contact and a dielectric stack is formed on the etch stop/anti-reflective layer. The dielectric stack functions to increase optical loss in high-order modes and control the lateral mode so as to facilitate the fundamental or single mode.

However, Aggerstam does not disclose a block member blocking light of at least a fundamental mode among the multimode laser light emitted from the laminate, as claimed in claims 1 and 14. Instead, Aggerstam merely discloses the dielectric stack discussed above.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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